

Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources encourages all trappers to utilize the national trapping BMP* standards when trapping. Trapping BMPs were established to scientifically evaluate traps used for capturing furbearing animals. These evaluations are based on animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, practicality, and the safety of traps and trapping systems.

The published BMPs serve as guides for wildlife management agencies, wildlife researchers, and trappers that are interesting the improvement of traps and trapping systems.

*Please note that some traps mentioned in the national trapping BMP documents below may contain trapping devices or methods that are not legal for use in South Carolina.

Introduction to BMPs http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Introduction_BMPs.pdf

Beaver http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Beaver_BMP.pdf

Bobcat http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Bobcat_BMP_2014_F.pdf

Eastern Coyote http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/EasternCoyote_BMP_2014_F.pdf

Gray Fox http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/GrayFox_BMP_2014_F.pdf

Mink http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Mink_BMP.pdf

Muskrat http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Muskrat_BMP_2014_F.pdf

Opossum http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Opossum_BMP.pdf

Raccoon http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Raccoon_BMP_2014_F.pdf

Red Fox http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Red_Fox_BMP_2014_F.pdf

River Otter http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Otter_BMP_2014_F.pdf

Striped Skunk http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Skunk_BMP.pdf

Weasel http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Weasel_BMP.pdf

For more information about trapping BMPs in South Carolina, visit the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Furbearer Management page (Link http://fishwildlife.org/?section=best_management_practices), or contact the SCDNR Furbearer Program at 803-734-3609

Trapping and Furbearer Management in North American Wildlife Conservation (new edition)

The newly updated 6th edition of this document is a compilation of the knowledge, insights and experiences of professional wildlife biologists who are responsible for the conservation of wildlife resources throughout the U.S. and Canada.

(Link: http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Trap-Fur-Mgmt_final.pdf)

Web based National Trapper Education Program

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' National Trapper Education Program was developed collaboratively with state and federal agencies as well as trapping experts from around the country to provide an online mechanism for states to certify trappers using consistent national content standards and learning objectives.

(Link: <http://conservationlearning.remote-learner.net/>)

Trapper Education Student Manual

This trapper education student manual* developed by AFWA teaches basic trapping techniques with a strong focus on the responsible treatment of animals, legal methods, safety, selectivity and ethical trapper behavior.

(Link: http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Trapping_Student_Manual_2005.pdf)

*Please note that some traps or methods mentioned in the national Trapper Education Student Manual may not be legal for use in South Carolina.